രാമവമ്മ ത്തമ്പുരാൻ:— കിട്ടിയതായിട്ടു മാമ്മയില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ പാലം മാമ്പിള്ളി:— കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ളതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഗവ ൎമ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും വല്ല നടപടികളും നടത്തീട്ടുണ്ടോ?

രാമവമ്മത്തമ്പുരാൻ— നടത്തീട്ടുണ്ട്.

Statistics of Beggars in the State.

101. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :—Will the Government kindly furnish the information, requested in Question 424, dated 11th August 1933, regarding statistics of beggars in the State?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— Government have not collected the information asked for.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :— Has the Government any idea to collect any statistics?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— There is a general statistics available of the beggars. The last Census showed that there were 1074 beggars.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :— This figure is incorrect and the correctness of this figure was questioned even before.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— In that case I would be much obliged if the Honourable Members can suggest any better method to collect correct statistics. The Government is amenable to any suggestion for collecting correct statistics. You cannot go and ask them if he is a beggar. If you go and ask another man if so and so is a beggar he will say that I know the beggar.

Dr. A. R. Menon :— Are there not professional beggars and rich beggars?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— Yes, I say, there are decent people who go on begging. There are so many kinds of beggars. So far as we know there is no other method to collect reliable statistics.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :— Once this point was raised in this House. Even that figure is not given here. I ask, when once the correctness of that was questioned in this House, was it not a duty thrown on its part to see that that number was right or not?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— The information once gathered by Government having proved wrong and as there was no better method of collecting the statistics they did not think it worth while to collect any further information. If the Honourable Members would suggest any better method Government will be only too glad to accept them.

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Mr. A. Sankara Poduval :— Does not the econmoic depression accelerate the number of beggars year by year?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— It is a very large question which I cannot answer off-hand. Many things contribute to beggary and depression may be one of the causes.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval :— Then is it advisable to take statistics now?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :— Do you mean to put a stop to the beggar problem?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— I want notice. I have not thought about that.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval :— My question is whether it has ever received the attention of the Government to find out a solution for this begging problem.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— I want notice. I have not thought of it.

Dr. A. R. Menon :— By constructing more poor houses and by prohibiting begging by legislation you can to a certain extent prevent begging.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— The question of passing legislation for stopping begging has to be seriously considered especially because people have not pronounced views on charity.

Dr. A. R. Menon :— Prohibition on the part of the Government will certainly have to be supplemented by some other action.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :— Does not the Government exist mainly for the poor?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— It exists for all.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :— Is it not primarily for the poor?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— It exists primarily for all.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval :— What is the objection for trying to solve the problem in the light of the remarks made by the Hon'ble Member for Cheruthuruthi.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— I do not concede that nothing has been done in that direction. A further consideration is necessary to get rid of the beggar nuisance.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :— Will it not be possible to do that by giving them work and wages?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— If it is possible it ought to be done.

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Mr. A. Sivarama Menon :— Are not the Government aware that the Municipalities in British India are taking active steps to eradicate the beggar problem?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— I know that it is receiving the attention of the Municipalities.

Mr. A. Sivarama Menon :— So as a preliminary step to solve this problem in Cochin, will it not be advisable to collect some statistics with regard to the number of beggars in the State?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— Government are prepared to collect the statistics if a useful method of collecting statistics is suggested.

Mr. A. Sivarama Menon :— Assuming that the Government have succeeded in collecting the correct statistics according to the machinery available, may I know what further steps have been taken to solve the problem?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— I cannot give an off-hand answer, because these beggars are not a fixed factor. There may be 1074 to-day, there may be 3074 to-morrow so that the elimination of the beggar problem will be a very difficult one.

Mr. T. K. Nayar :— Does not the Government think that it is the duty of every civilized Government to solve this problem?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— Certainly it is.

Mr. T. K. Nayar :— Has our Government tried to do anything?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— I want notice. So far as I know our Government are doing something.

Mr. Paul Mampilli :— Have not other Governments and Municipalities collected statistics?

Mr K. Achyuta Menon :— I want notice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :— Can they not start State Industries to solve the problem?

Mr. I. N. Menon :—There is a confusion between solving the problem and affording relief to the poor. The Municipalities have been collecting statistics to deal with them and they have been legislating enactments to stop begging on the roads. But that is not poor relief.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :— That is why I am asking whether they cannot solve the problem by starting State Industries, and giving them wage and work.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— It might or it might not.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :— According to the Revenue Member the answer given here is not correct. Will the Government be pleased to collect the correct information?

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Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— I maintain it is a correct figure.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :— The question was whether they have collected any information.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— The last census showed that there were 1074 beggars. Since then we have not collected any further information.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval :— Will the Government consider the advisability of having legislation to prevent begging in the open streets and thoroughfares?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— The Government can consider the advisability.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :— What is the exact information that the Government intended in this sentence that the "Government have not collected the information."

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— The information that was wanted by the Hon'ble Member was the number of beggars. It was pointed out that there were 1074 beggars. Since then it was not possible to collect the information.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :— What is the length of notice you had?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— I have not calculated the number of days.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim:— Has the Economic Survey to bring any information with regard to this?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— It might.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :— Is it one of the terms of references?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon :— I want notice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim :— Can I get the information from the Hon'ble Secretary?

Rama Varmha Tampuran :— I have not got the file with me now. There are about a hundred items on which the officer has been asked to collect information. I do not remember whether this is one.

Nomination of a Muslim Member in the Vellattinjur Panchayat.

162. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan :— Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether there were not representations made

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